

Press Release Maine State Planning Office

Maine Recycles Week 2005

Maine Recycles Week as Important as Ever

Date: November 8, 2005

Contact: Bruce White, Waste Management and Recycling Program

TEL: (207) 287-8053

E-mail: bruce.white@maine.gov

Maine Recycles Week, November 8 through November 15, 2005, is in its seventh year. During this week, citizens in each community are asked to do their part to raise public awareness toward recycling in their communities and promote the purchase of products made from recycled materials. Recycling programs and opportunities are available to more than 98% of the state's population. The thrust of Maine Recycles Week is now to get everyone effectively and efficiently participating in those recycling systems. Recycling starts and ends at home; however, the motivation and promotion often start in schools.

During Maine Recycles Week, schools have an opportunity to compete in statewide competitions for promoting recycling in their communities. Many schools incorporate the competitive poster contest in their class plans; winning posters are then eligible to participate in the statewide poster competition, and are judged in a separate poster contest. Again this year, cash awards will be given to the schools and classes which demonstrate their creative prowess in supporting recycling. St. George Elementary School has thrown down its 'program' challenge early; however the Maine Recycles Week 2005 Steering Committee has been contacted by schools from Kittery to Ft. Kent who have requested additional information on the week-long effort and the poster contest.

In some communities, such as Clinton and Benton, members of the local recycling committee are visiting schools and offering to speak about recycling in their classrooms. In communities, such as Bath and Brunswick, school children will be looking for a visit by the local recycling mascot. In Bath, Ruby the Recycling Hound will venture into the community; while Brunswick's recycling committee will muster the energy of their mascot, the otter, to tell citizens: "U Otter Recycle".

In Scarborough, the community is encouraged to support not only recycling but also Ruth's Reusable Resources Center, which is now housed at the old Bessey School. As Ruth's looks for a new location, an auction will be held Saturday at the Scarborough High School cafeteria. Ruth Libby and her husband, Tom, will be overseeing the sale of old school furniture that has been transformed by local artists into creative examples of "Reuse". The festivities will begin about five o'clock Saturday, November 12, 2005.

More than 4000 'Maine Recycles Week 2005' posters have been distributed to municipal offices, schools and businesses throughout the State. It is almost certain that we will again see a high level of excitement spring from the schools; however each of us has to do our part to carry the message of 'reuse, reduce, recycle' into the communities and wherever possible do our part to make recycling successful. For more information on Maine Recycles Week 2005, or recycling in general, please visit the web site of the Recycling and Waste Management Program of the State Planning Office - www.recyclemaine.com.

Maine State Planning Office
Executive Department
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333